

## March News

Our focus continues to be promoting student success and students have been given some tools and lessons on how to foster their learning.

- Be Prepared and On Time
- Attendance Matters - Attendance is a key factor to student success. During consistent attendance, students receive instruction and guided practice for lessons and are able to participate in valuable classroom activities and discussions to support learning. The classroom time can not be duplicated through notes and assignments. Encourage and support regular and consistent attendance to maximize the learning opportunities for your student.
- Work Hard - Study, study, study

On our website, [mayerthorpehigh.ca](http://mayerthorpehigh.ca), under the students and parents tab, you will find our student agenda in a pdf form. Students have also been given an agenda to help them keep track of assignments, due dates and has our rules and policies in it. We have reviewed these with our students over the first two weeks, but please feel free to review them as well. Students were also given a paper and a magnet that has our calendar dates listed for important days.

We look forward to working with you through this educational adventure.

### **New Writing Assessment Procedures**

Assessments are a key piece of evidence in measuring student learning. Writing assessments are frequently permitted to be written outside of the classroom or without secure technology. With emerging technology for students to generate pieces of writing that are not their own for submission, we have devised simple procedures to ensure that students will be submitting their own work for assessment.

- All writing assessments will be written on secure exam accounts
- All writing assessments must be written under supervision
- Students will not have access to internet during writing sessions

Students found plagiarizing or submitting work generated with artificial intelligence can not be assessed and will follow our school policies.

### **Parent Teacher Interviews**

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held **Wednesday March 8, 2023** and **Thursday March 9, 2023** from **4 - 7:30 pm** each night. No appointments are necessary.

### **PowerSchool Parent Portal**

The parent portal access is the perfect way to keep up-to-date with student assessment and attendance. If you do not have access to the portal for your students please contact the office.

### **International Trip Meeting 2024**

There will be a meeting held on March 6, 2023 at 6:00 pm for all participants currently registered for the Europe 2024 trip. The meeting is to meet other participants, review itinerary and expectations, and to answer any questions. Please RSVP for the meeting to Mrs. Lundstrom by

email [lillian.lundstrom@ngps.ca](mailto:lillian.lundstrom@ngps.ca). The trip is full so no new registrations are being taken at this time.

### **Ski Trip Date**

The annual ski trip to Marmot Basin, Jasper will be held Thursday March 23, 2023. Due to the overwhelming response, we will be taking **3** coach buses to Jasper. We do have some spaces for adult chaperones, willing to ski for the day and be a supervisor. Please email/call Mrs. Jager. Students who are new skiers/snowboarders will be required to take lessons and will not receive a lift pass until they arrive at lessons.

Students must be in good standing with the school to participate - fees paid, no behavioral concerns, and have all course work completed to an acceptable standard. We will be reviewing student status' by March 17 to ensure students registered meet these requirements.

### **Senior High Citadel Trip**

The senior high students will have the opportunity to attend the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton to see "One of literary history's most famous couples comes to life in this modern take on Jane Austen's most famous works, Pride and Prejudice." on Wednesday March 22, 2023. Students must be in good standing with the school to participate - fees paid, no behavioral concerns, and have all course work completed to an acceptable standard.

### **International Trip Contest**

Mrs. Knott has been selected as a winner in the "D-Day 80: Juno and the Road to Liberation Tour" contest put on by the EF Institute for Cultural Exchange Ltd. The winner receives a spot on the "D-Day 80: Juno and the Road to Liberation Tour" provided and operated by EF Education First International Ltd. Mrs. Knott gets to bring **TWO students** with them on the trip, which includes program and departure fees such as round-trip airfare, overnight stays in hotels, and select meals. However, the prize does not cover optional excursions, insurance fees, gratuities, meals other than those provided, or additional travel.

This exciting opportunity for our students will be a once in a lifetime travel adventure. Students can apply to be selected by submitting an essay to Mrs. Jager by March 24, 2023. The essay should explore the impact that this trip will have on the student's life, the parts of the trip that are most exciting to them (and why), and why they should be selected. A link to the tour is below. The selection committee will be composed of school and division office staff. We are very excited to be able to provide this opportunity to the staff. Thank you Mrs. Knott for entering the contest and always looking to enhance the educational opportunities for our students!

<https://www.eftours.ca/educational-tour/DDAY-juno-road-liberation>

### **Dinner Theatre**

Auditions have concluded and the show has begun to take shape. The dinner theatre will be held on May 31 and June 1, 2023. More information to follow in the coming months.

### **School Council - Parent Advisory Group**

We will continue to meet as a parent advisory group for this year. The next meeting will be postponed until Tuesday March 21, 2023 at 6:30 pm. The school trustee report can be found at the end of the newsletter.

### **Post-Secondary Information**

The application deadline for most post-secondary institutes is **March 1, 2023**. Students have worked on getting accounts for Apply Alberta and have created their profiles. After the release of diploma results in February, students may be required to update marks with the post-secondary institutes. Correspondence will only be done with the student through emails, so encourage your student to check the email and any on-line accounts they have for to-do list items. Any student who requires more assistance can make an appointment to see Mrs. Jager.

### **Scholarships**

The school website has links to a number of scholarships. This is the time for students to begin gathering applications, reviewing requirements, writing essays and requesting reference letters as needed. We will be detailing a number of scholarships with the students and reviewing application package requirements in the coming months.

### **Breakfast Club**

Each morning students have access to complimentary breakfast items. The menu varies daily and is always nutritious, delicious and served with a smile. We serve about 60 students daily. Thank you to Breakfast Club of Canada, Pembina Pipelines and Pembina West Co-op for their donations to our program. If you would like to help support the program, juice boxes and cereal are always appreciated.

### **Sports**

Junior and Senior Basketball teams have only their Zone competitions left in the season. The archery competition will be held at the Boat and Sportsman Show March 16, 2023. Soon after, Badminton and Handball teams will begin their seasons. Good Luck to all our athletes and thank you to the coaches and volunteers that make these happen.

### **Students' Union**

Thank you from the staff to the kind gesture of the students' union members who surprised us with a special treat and heartwarming notes. Kindness is contagious!

### **Summer Career Exposure Boot Camps**

NGPS will be running career exposure summer boot camps once again. This program is held in two separate week long sessions from July 3 - 7 and July 10 - 14. Students in grade 9 -12 can register to attend career and skill development focused learning weeks with the potential to earn high school credits. Last year our students engaged in learning about welding, automotives, baking, cooking, forensic sciences, cosmetology, fashion studies and industrial safety. Keep an eye out for session and registration information.

### **Always Looking For...**

The foods lab is always in search of plastic containers and metal cutlery.  
The sewing class is looking for jeans for a project.  
The IA shop is always in search of old horseshoes for welding projects.

## **Northern Gateway Public Schools - Trustee Report**

Date of Report: February 27, 2023  
Submitted by: Trustee Deb Koloski ([deb.koloski@ngps.ca](mailto:deb.koloski@ngps.ca))  
Trustee Diane Hagman ([diane.hagman@ngps.ca](mailto:diane.hagman@ngps.ca))

### **Highlights from Board Meeting - Feb 14, 2023**

**Fox Creek School 2024 International Field Trip to Scotland and Ireland:** The Board approved, in principle, the proposed field trip as presented by Principal Ian Baxter. The trip is planned for March, 2024 for grades 10-12.

**Annual Appreciation & Awards Dinner** - is tentatively scheduled for September 29, 2023, pending confirmation of a venue.

**New Bus Route for Mayerthorpe Area** - a driver has been secured and the new routes are operational.

**Funding for Dual Credit Programming** - the loss of this funding has significantly impacted employment readiness programs in NGPS such as the Health Care Aide program at MHS. Our regional partners have been working with us to identify possible funding to re-establish this program and a funding source has been identified and applied for. We are hopeful that this program will be up and running again soon.

**Draft School Calendar** - has been reviewed by the Board and administration, and is ready to go forward to the public for input. Once further input is collected, this calendar will form the model for a further two years of draft calendars.

**School Board Tours** - we have completed 4 days of school tours and have two more days (March 8 - Grasmere, Darwell and Rochfort Bridge Colony and March 9 - Whitecourt Schools).

**Next Board Meeting: March 21, 2023 @ 10 a.m.**